(c) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), assistance from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) amounting to Rs. 4 crore during 1997-98, from NFCR amounting to Rs. 828.15 crore during 1999-2000, from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) amounting to Rs. 35 crore during 2000-01 and from NCCF amounting to Rs. 114.62 crore during 2001-02, have been released to Orissa in the wake of natural calamities.

Encouraging Coarse Grains

†4665. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Amar Ujaala (Meerut)", dated the 20th April, 2002 under the caption, "Paschimi Uttar Pradesh Mein Dhaan-Ganna Upjane par Ankush Lage";

(b) whether 1000 litres of water is consumed for producing one kilogram of sugar;

(c) whether cultivation of Arhar, Gram, Maize, Jawar and Millet crops, *in lieu* of Paddy and sugarcane crops, would be encouraged which would need less quantity of water and would also yield more benefits to the farmers;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In view of the need for diversification in agriculture, Government would like to encourage more coverage of area under pulses in which the country is deficit. Moreover, cultivation of these

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

crops, which do not only use less water, but also helps in maintaining the soil health, which is deteriorating by continuous growing of sugarcane and paddy crops. However, keeping in view the fact that sugarcane is a commercial crop and any diversion may affect the sugar mills and the farming community, it would be advisable to substitute paddy crop with pulse crops wherever it is feasible.

Discouraging Tobbaco Cultivation

4666. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of health hazards, Government propose to discourage tobacco cultivation and suggest growing alternate crops to reduce tobacco cultivation and help the farmers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government does not have any scheme for promoting cultivation of tobacco crop in the country, and the farmers are being advised by Indian Council of Agricultural Research system the alternative crops which can be grown.

Harassment of Allottees of Mother Dairy's (F&V) Plant, Mangolpuri

4667. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mother Dairy's (F&V) booths in the national capital are receiving less and poor quality vegetables and fruits from its plant located at Mangolpuri, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the allottees of booths are tortured and harassed when verbal or written complaints/protests are made to the plant about supply of less quantity and poor quality of vegetables and fruits and;

(c) if so, the factual position in this regard?